Amendment to the Claims

The listing of claims below will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application.

1-2 **(Cancelled)**

3. **(Previously Presented)** A sulphurous acid generator apparatus comprising:

a burn chamber in which to combust solid sulphur, the burn chamber comprising one or more sidewalls, a base, a lid, and a gas outlet;

a hopper to hold solid sulphur to be combusted, the hopper comprising one or more sidewalls, a base, and a lid, wherein the sulphur hopper substantially surrounds the burn chamber;

a first conduit connected to the gas outlet for conducting sulphur dioxide gas;

a second conduit for conducting a stream of water; and

means for passively introducing the sulphur dioxide gas conducted in the first conduit into the stream of water in the second conduit.

4. **(Previously Presented)** The sulphurous acid generator of claim 3 further comprising means for substantially eliminating any discharge plume by reducing moisture content of gases and vapors exiting the apparatus.

5. **(Cancelled)**

6. **(Previously Presented)** A sulphurous acid generator apparatus, wherein the sulphurous acid generator combusts sulphur creating radiant heat of and about the apparatus, the apparatus generating a discharge of gases and/or vapors including moisture causing a visible discharge plume, the improvement comprising:

a burn chamber in which to combust solid sulphur, the burn chamber comprising one or more sidewalls, a base, a lid and a gas outlet;

a hopper to hold solid sulphur to be combusted, the hopper comprising one or more sidewalls, a base and a lid, wherein the sulphur hopper substantially surrounds the burn chamber; and

means for substantially eliminating any discharge plume.

7. **(Previously Presented)** The apparatus of claim 6 where the means for substantially eliminating any discharge plume utilizes the radiant heat created by the apparatus to reduce moisture content of the discharge.

8. **(Previously Presented)** The apparatus of claim 6 wherein the means for substantially eliminating any discharge plume utilizes the radiant heat created by the apparatus to reduce moisture content of the discharge.

9. **(Original)** The apparatus of claim 6 wherein the means for substantially eliminating any discharge plume comprises a heated housing through which exiting gases and vapor flow.

10. **(Previously Presented)** The apparatus of claim 9 wherein the housing is heated by the radiant heat created by combustion of sulphur in the apparatus.

11. **(Previously Presented)** A sulphurous acid generator apparatus comprising:

a combustion chamber in which to combust solid sulphur, the combustion chamber comprising one or more sidewalls, a base, a lid and a gas outlet;

a hopper to hold solid sulphur to be combusted, the hopper comprising one or more sidewalls, a base and a lid, wherein the sulphur hopper substantially surrounds the combustion chamber;

a first conduit connected to the gas outlet for conducting sulphur dioxide gas; and

a second conduit for conducting a stream of water, the second conduit comprising a restrictor,

wherein the first conduit extends into the restrictor so as to both point and terminate downstream in the restrictor.

12. **(Currently Amended)** A sulphurous acid generator apparatus comprising:

[[A**]]** a burn chamber in which to combust solid sulphur, the burn chamber comprising one or more sidewalls, a base, a lid and a gas outlet;

a first conduit connected to the gas outlet for conducting sulphur dioxide gas; and

a second conduit for conducting a stream of water, the second conduit comprising a restrictor,

wherein the first conduit extends into the restrictor so as to both point and terminate downstream in the restrictor; and means for substantially eliminating any discharge plume by reducing a moisture content of gases and vapors exiting the apparatus.

13. **(Previously Presented)** The apparatus of claim 12 wherein the means for substantially eliminating any discharge plume utilizes radiant heat created by the apparatus to reduce a moisture content of the discharge.

14. **(Previously Presented)** The apparatus of claim 12 wherein the means for substantially eliminating any discharge plume comprises a heated housing through which exiting gases and vapors flow.

15. **(Previously Presented)** The apparatus of claim 14 wherein the housing is heated by radiant heat created by combustion of sulphur in the apparatus.

16. **(Withdrawn-Currently Amended)** A method for using a sulphurous acid generator apparatus, the method comprising:

contacting water with sulphur dioxide gas in a sulphurous acid generator apparatus to produce a treated acidic water, wherein the sulphurous acid generator apparatus comprises:

a ~~burn chamber~~ combustion chamber in which to combust solid sulphur, the ~~burn chamber~~ combustion chamber comprising one or more sidewalls, a base, a lid and a gas outlet;

a hopper to hold solid sulphur to be combusted, the hopper comprising one or more sidewalls, a base and a lid, wherein the sulphur hopper substantially surrounds the combustion chamber;

a first conduit connected to the gas outlet for conducting sulphur dioxide gas; and

a second conduit for conducting a stream of water, the second conduit comprising a restrictor,

wherein the first conduit extends into the restrictor so as to both point and terminate downstream in the restrictor.

17. **(Withdrawn-Currently Amended)** The method of claim 16 wherein the ~~burn chamber~~ combustion chamber further comprises means for substantially eliminating any discharge plume, the means comprising reducing moisture content of gases and moisture exiting the apparatus.

18. **(Withdrawn- Previously Presented)** The method of claim 16 further comprising irrigating crops with the treated acidic water.

19. **(Withdrawn- Previously Presented)** The method of claim 18 further comprising allowing the crops to take up sulphur from the treated acidic water.

20. **(Cancelled)**.